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We think you will be interested in this article quoting the 1952 NATO report of President Eisenhower and noting that much precious time has been lost and the need for greater unity is more urgent than ever.

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Sunday, March 25, 1956

Second Look

Urgency of Union: Challenge for Ike

By Herbert Elliston

ALMOST four years ago to the day Dwight D. Eisenhower made his first and only report from Paris as Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Alliance. Ike gave just a brief and hurried account of military accomplishments. He was more concerned over the urgency of more political action as a group. The report amounted to a clarion call to his political chiefs of the Allied nations. Now that he himself is chief of state, his own plea of four years ago as Supreme Commander deserves his consideration as President of mighty America. For we are at present lost in a torpor of half-action about everything except the great game of presidential politics.



Elliston

Four years ago General Eisenhower reminded the statesmen of the "enormity" of the "present threat." The threat was of such dimensions that it could not be met by "half-hearted measures." For the "pattern" points "surely to disaster." The only response to the challenge was "to make a complete break with many things in the past." Being a good soldier, Eisenhower could not spell out what he meant. But he gave a strong hint when he reminded the statesmen that "peacetime coalitions throughout history have been weak and notoriously inefficient."

WELL, the "pattern" is even more set for "disaster" than it was four years ago. A new dynamism is at work in Moscow. The Russians have made peace with Tito, and have turned him, with their blessing, into a missionary for neutralism. Nasser has a role for Moscow along with Tito. Nasser is doing a job as a stalking horse for Soviet wreckers of the Western position in the Middle East and North Africa. Then there is the new policy of economic penetration in Asia and Africa which Moscow is undertaking. All these developments have left us more or less passive in the over-all sense.

In other words, the "half-hearted measures" against which General Eisenhower railed as Supreme Commander four years ago have become even more half-hearted under President Eisenhower. Not to lead forward is to condemn all the allies to "tread the backward way." Quo Vadis? It is as if we had decided for the duration of the presidential campaign to rise above the cold war in the middle of which destiny has put us.

Congress has taken its cue from the President on half-heartedness. Last year the first order of business before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for this session was said to be the Kefauver Resolution to explore more Atlantic unity. However, as soon as the members had met, it was decided to sidetrack it. The time was not "opportune." Yet, while the Foreign Relations Committee was making this excuse, the Judiciary Committee was reporting out the revised Bricker Amendment which bulwarks the presidential initiative in the clouds.

CLARENCE STREIT suggests a precedent for making "a complete break with many things in the past" even in a presidential year. In the current issue of *Freedom & Union* he goes back 40 years ago to 1916. A month before the 1916 party conventions President Wilson endorsed the Republican-inspired League to Enforce Peace headed by former President Taft. In that way Wilson took the issue completely out of election politics. Similarly, President Eisenhower could take the Kefauver Resolution out of 1956 politics.

Without a doubt the idea back of the Kefauver Resolution is close to Eisenhower's (as it is, incidentally, to General Gruenther's) heart. His 1952 report as Supreme Commander testifies to that. Since then the sense of community, inchoate in the North Atlantic Alliance, is being lost—as we see in the lack of consultation (e. g., over Cyprus) whenever a NATO member has a crisis outside NATO. Far from making "a complete break" with the past, as General Eisenhower pleaded for, we are making a complete break with the present. Atlantica looks like Mohammed's coffin, neither in heaven nor on earth, and the West, divided, is on the run.

There must be a rediscovery of the unifying idea of the Atlantic Community which is what F. S. C. Northrop calls the Living Law, or the underlying living habits, associations, and beliefs of the Atlantic peoples), and we must seek to give it political expression as the Kefauver Resolution seeks to do. We are the only country that can take a gamble to stop the rot in our peacetime coalition, and we must do it for freedom's sake.

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